

## ***Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs***

The Commission on Youth has compiled the *Collection* to assist educators, service providers, parents, caregivers and others seeking information on those mental health treatments proven to be effective in treating children and adolescents. The Collection is:

- A nationally recognized publication that is Virginia's first and only resource on best practices in children's mental health
- Compiled and updated biannually by the Commission on youth at the request of the General Assembly
- Provides the community at large with information about evidence-based and promising practices for treating youth mental health disorders
- Designed to encourage use of treatments by professions and inform parents, caregivers and other stakeholders
- Focuses on a data-driven decision making based on consistent scientific evidence which permits assessment of outcomes

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DR. FRANK S. ROYAL, JR. (RICHMOND)  
MR. CHARLES H. SLEMP, III (NORTON)

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Commonwealth  
of  
Virginia

**Commission on Youth**



**The Virginia Commission on Youth** is a standing bipartisan legislative commission of the General Assembly, which, by mandate, provides a legislative forum for exploring and resolving complex issues related to youth and their families.

Virginia has over 1.8 million children under the age of 18. This number represents almost 25% of the Commonwealth's population. Accordingly, a significant percentage of our state budget funds services for these youth and their families. Children's services are divided among 12 state agencies and three Secretariats, including, Education, Public Safety and Health and Human Resources.

Fortunately, the Commission on Youth provides a forum for review and study of youth policies and services. The Commission collaborates with Virginia's numerous child-serving agencies and organizations to develop policies and initiatives that protect and advance the Commonwealth's most valuable assets, its youth and families. Whether you are a member or staff of the General Assembly, a government official, service provider, educator, parent/caregiver, or interested member of the public, I know you will find the Commission to be a resource on a host of issues, such as child welfare, juvenile justice, children's mental health and education. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with our work and to let us know whenever we can be of assistance to your child, family or community. I encourage you to visit the Commission's website for more information (<http://vcoy.virginia.gov/>).



*Delegate Chris Peace*

## Proudly Supporting the General Assembly

- Provides a bipartisan forum for complex issues related to youth and their families
- Studies and provides recommendations to the General Assembly on matters related to youth and families in the areas of child mental health, comprehensive services, child welfare, kinship care, adoption & foster care, child care, public safety, juvenile justice, substance abuse, education, health and human services
- Contributes to the General Assembly's ability to make sound policy decisions based on well-studied, reasoned recommendations and best practices
- Performs research on youth-related topics at the request of members
- Assists members in developing bills on study issues which reflect consensus among key agencies, organizations and special interests
- Analyzes youth-related legislation (proposed or existing) for members
- Serves as a resource for members' constituent concerns
- Monitors developments in federal, state and local government



### Commission on Youth Legislative Highlights

- Developed Virginia's first Youth Suicide Prevention Plan.
- Successfully Introduced legislation to prohibit the use of suspension/expulsion if truancy is the only disciplinary violation to reduce chronic truancy.
- Successfully introduced Restoration of Parental Rights
- Designed a guide for alternative education
- Hosted 4 family impact seminars with VCU at the State Capitol
- Streamlined and obtained funding for Virginia's 2-1-1 system, which offers health and human resource information and referral, services
- Offered research and guidance on Foster Care and Kinship issues



Virginia Commission  
on Youth